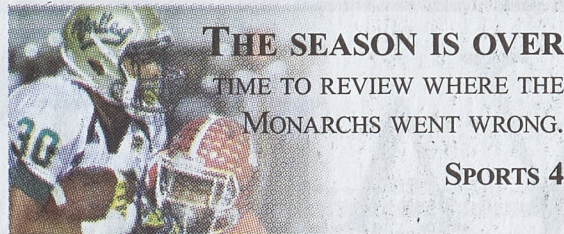


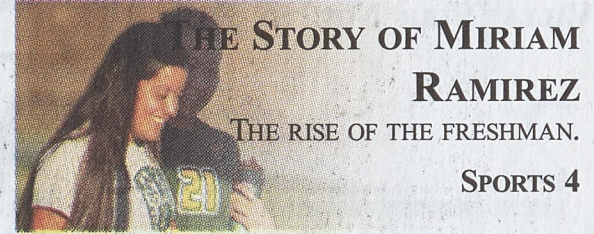
INSIDE THE MIND
GETTING TO KNOW THE CREATOR OF
BREAD & BUTTER.
VALLEY LIFE 2



FREEDOM OF SPEECH
CAN WE SPEAK FREELY?
OPINION 3



THE SEASON IS OVER
TIME TO REVIEW WHERE THE
MONARCHS WENT WRONG.
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THE STORY OF MIRIAM
RAMIREZ
THE RISE OF THE FRESHMAN.
SPORTS 4

THE VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
VOLUME 81, ISSUE NO. 7
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WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM

Parking structure gets fixed

■ Multiple parking spots were closed last week.

By ZAIDA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

A week ago Monarchs may have experienced a shortage of parking at Valley College's new parking structure.

In addition to that, Lot A is currently being occupied with Santa & Sons Christmas trees which contributes to the current parking congestion.

Last week, selected areas of the new parking structure were closed due to re-installment of speed bumps.

"The speed bump installation is scheduled in phases in order to maximize access to the garage and minimize impact to students, faculty and staff," said Coby King of the Los Angeles Community College District Building Program.

According to Valley's website, the ramp from the third floor, fourth floor and roof was closed from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., and the roof would remain closed till 3 p.m. on Nov. 13. and Nov. 14, only the ground level was open for parking and on Nov. 15, the ground level was closed from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

McCarthy Construction's project engineer, Cameron Kilar, explained that the reason for the re-installment of the speed bumps was because the adhesive from the glue, PL Glue, which was initially used, was not sticking well enough to the rubber speed bumps therefore were being replaced on all floors.

The construction workers had to take out the speed bumps from all levels of the new parking structure and then scrape the glue off them.

This time around, a two-part adhesive spread was applied onto the same speed bumps.

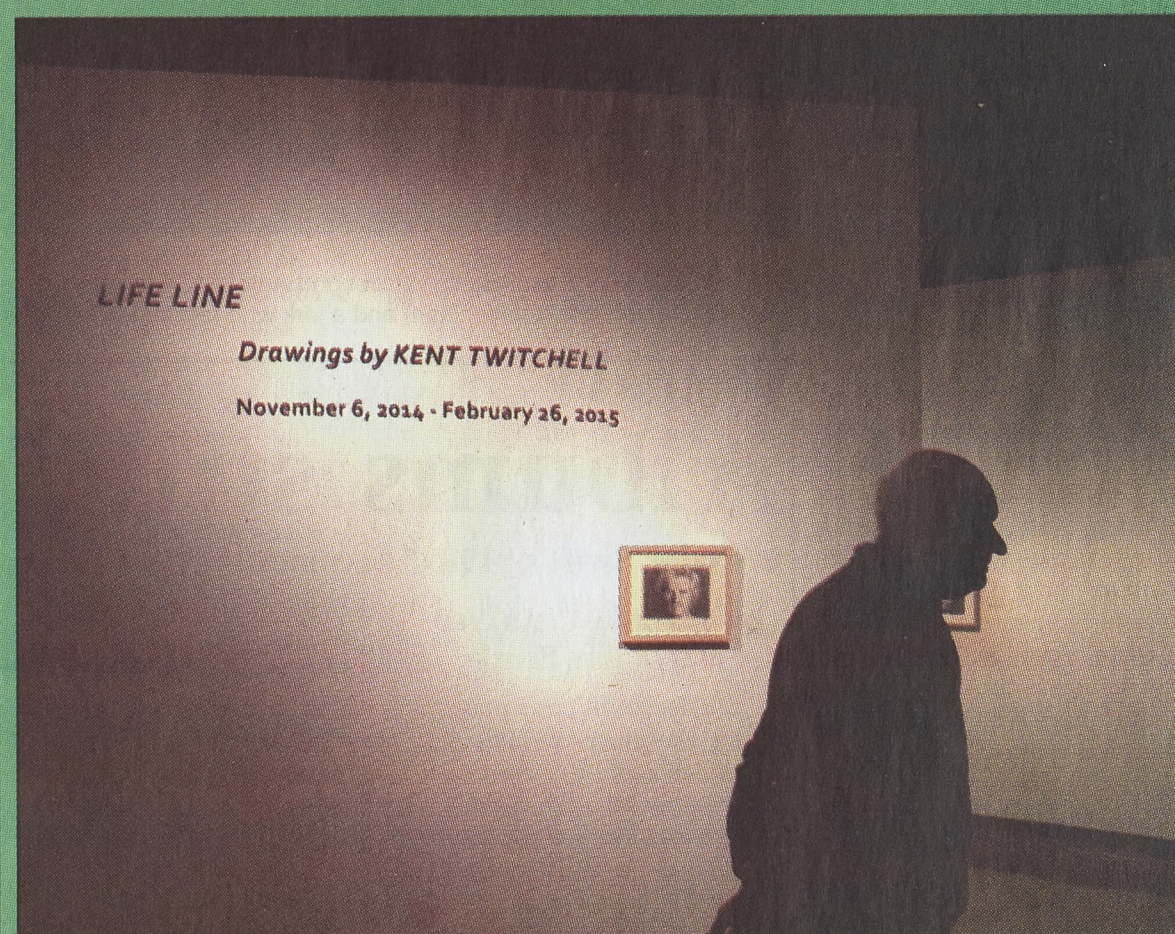
The building program affiliate assured that no further charges would be made to Valley. "The budget for the parking structure was \$20.5 million. There is no additional cost associated with the speed bump

see *Parking* page 3



ZAIDA DIAZ/VALLEY STAR
PATCHING IT UP - A McCarthy Construction worker is fixing the speed bumps in Valley College's new parking structure.

KENT TWITCHELL EXHIBITION



LIFE LINE
Drawings by KENT TWITCHELL
November 6, 2014 - February 26, 2015
SMALL FACES - The Los Angeles Valley College Art Gallery presents "Life Line," a retrospective of renowned American muralist Kent Twitchell, including new works. More than 40 graphite-on-paper portraits will be displayed from Nov. 6 to Feb. 26 (closed from Dec. 12 to Feb. 8, 2015).

It might as well be spring

■ Spring semester is coming soon, and classes are available for students to select. And there are 60 more classes available for Monarchs than last spring.

By JORGE BELON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Current or future Monarchs can begin scheduling their spring semester as the catalog is now available for students.

The session, running from Feb. 9 to June 7, 2015, will have 608 courses to choose from, that includes Non-Credit classes. There are 60 more courses than there were in spring 2014 selections. With 44 music and 36 art classes comprising the biggest sections. The major core classes, English, mathematics, history and different science classes, have a combined 87 courses. Spring will also include 19 Non-Credit Courses, with English As a Second Language (ESL) leading the way with 11 sections and 18 classes.

"I am excited to sign up already," said art major Monica Campos. "I already picked out my classes, I just have to wait till I can sign up, and hopefully

the classes are still there."

There are seven different priority registration groups; the first group of students was allowed to enroll for classes since Nov. 17. Those Monarchs were military veterans, foster youth, EOPS, DSPS and CalWORKs. The second group, who are fully matriculated continuing students, will be allowed to sign up for classes on Nov. 20. The second group which are continuing students were able to sign up since the 20th as well.

The third group is made up of either fully matriculated new or returning students, they will be allowed to register starting Nov. 28. The fourth group, the non-matriculated continuing students, will be able to sign up on Dec. 8. The fifth group will begin signing up for classes on Dec. 15, and they are students who do not have good academics or are on probation.

The sixth group consists of new or returning Monarchs

who applied after the cutoff date to assign priority registration appointments. They will be able to pick classes starting Dec. 19. And for the last group they will be able to choose classes on Dec. 21, and they are high school students who signed up after the cutoff date.

As for the days off for students, the school will be closed on Presidents Day from Feb. 13th to the 16th, plus Cesar Chavez Day on March 31st. Spring break will start on April 4th and end on 10th. The final spring holiday before summer vacation is Memorial Day, which will be on May 25th.

"I am returning to school," said Jackie Chavez, a CityWalk employee who plans on attending Valley. "I imagine that I will get leftovers, so I will just grab what I can for spring."

For more information on the spring schedule go to <http://www.lavc.edu/schedules.html#-fall2014>.

This time it's personal

■ Personal Statement workshop helps Monarchs that are applying to transfers to a four-year.

By KEVIN BUCKLES JR
SPORTS EDITOR

In an intimate, yet informative, setting in the Valley College Career/Transfer Center on Thursday, a representative from UCLA gave tips on how to properly complete a personal statement for a college application.

The hour-long workshop hosted by UCLA Student Executive Coordinator Paitzar Giourdian offered specific strategies on how to approach writing a personal statement and to help students feel less uneasy about the process.

"Your personal statement can never hurt you; it can only help you," said Giourdian to the six attendees in the Career/Transfer Center. "A lot of times, students really stress out about this section of the application. They think it is worth, like, 70 percent of their application and that they can get docked down points but, in reality, it's not like that."

"The entire purpose of the personal statement is to get the reader to know you better."

According to Giourdian, before students begin to write their essays to their selected UC schools, they are advised to consider interests, reasons for selected major(s), future goals, any distinctive characteristics, or any information that could aid the admissions in knowing them better.

Just listing achievements and accolades or any surface-level data, however, will not suffice, as that will most likely be information that the admissions office already is aware of. Writing what one may think the admissions committee may want to hear, relying on

cliches, as well as making up hardships are also not advised to include in the statement's content.

Potential applicants were also made cognizant that no student is admitted based solely on their personal statement, no matter how well-written. Slight grammar mistakes or exceptional word choice and sentence structure will not make or break the essay.

"We're not reading the personal statement for grammar to see if 'this person can write,' or 'is this person on a collegiate English level?' - just write about yourself. That's the only point we're trying to get across," explained the executive coordinator. "Actually, the more simple you write, most of the time, the better it is for you."

In UCLA's application, students are required to write essays for two different prompts, with a maximum of 500 words, each due to be submitted between Nov. 1-30. There is also an "additional comments" section of the application that allows for a direct listing of accomplishments, awards, etc, that would not have been appropriate to include in the personal statement itself, otherwise.

Valeria Ceballos, an anthropology major whose ultimate goal is to attend UCLA one day, found the workshop very beneficial and plans to apply everything that she learned.

"I feel a lot more relaxed and things are a lot more clear now," said Ceballos. "When you've done all of this stuff [in life] and have to fit it into one or two paragraphs for the statement, it can be nerve-racking, but after this workshop, I feel much better."

Additional content online - Go to

www.thevalleystar.com

Eight minutes, three lives

■ Donating blood takes a few minutes, but Monarchs can save multiple lives.

By AMANDA CAVARETTA
STAFF WRITER

The American Red Cross will visit Valley College for their monthly blood drive on Dec. 9.

"I always try to donate blood," said Valley math major Mary Gonzalez. "I think donating blood is the best thing to do, most people are afraid of being an organ donor so why not just give some blood."

Donating blood takes about eight minutes and one pint. Before someone gives blood, registration, and a mini-physical is required.

"For eight minutes, you get to save up to three lives," said American Red Cross account manager Susan Josephson.

According to officials, only 38 percent of the population is eligible to give blood. Of that statistic, only eight percent of actually donate. The American Red Cross reports that every 2 seconds someone needs a blood transfusion. Because blood only keeps for up to 42 days, constant replenishment of the supply is important. Individuals may donate every 56 days.

"It's important that we help save lives," said Josephson. "At some part in our lives, it will be one of us."

American Red Cross collects most of their donations from high schools and college blood drives. The blood that is collected and is brought to 150 hospitals in southern California.

Normally, when visiting the doctor to give blood one is told not to eat or drink anything. Donating blood is the complete opposite. When donating, it's highly encouraged to eat and stay well hydrated before and after giving blood.

Among the conditions that can disqualify someone from donating are the flu, a cold, or being on antibiotics. Those with questions about donor eligibility can call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

American Red Cross is always looking for volunteers. Students are encouraged to get involved with the blood drives. If interested, contact Susan Josephson via email: susan.josephson@redcross.org



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/VALLEY STAR
GIVING BLOOD - Monarch Austin-James Churchill an undecided major, is one of the few students donating blood in the Red Cross.

VALLEY LIFE

New filmmaker goes beyond her own "Bread and Butter"

■ From USC to winning awards at film festivals in a few short years.

BY JASEL RICO
STAFF WRITER
AND MONESSA CHAHAYED
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Liz Manashil's moment of realization came at 16, watching François Truffaut's "Stolen Kisses," featuring the French filmmaker's signature character, Antoine Doinel.

"Antoine was staring me down," she said of one of Doinel's glances into the camera. "I felt like in that moment the character was challenging me and inspiring me to act on my ambitions."

That moment set Manashil on an unalterable course into the waters of moviemaking, though the 2010 USC film school grad admits that "making a film can be very scary."

Her debut feature as writer-director, "Bread and Butter," is an offbeat romantic comedy made possible by the crowdfunding site, Kickstarter. It has already received two festival screenings, winning "Best Feature Film" at the Big Apple Film Festival.

Manashil wrote, directed, and scarily took on a multitude of other jobs in the production, out of necessity. She logged time as an editor, set designer, and producer. It had to be done, and she even found joy in stretching herself.

"I really loved post production; everything was done and I had so much more control in the decisions made. It

was the most fun," she said.

"Our first assembly was about two-and-a-half hours so there were a lot of scenes that we cut. One reason for this could be that I possibly overwrote the script," she admitted. There were "a lot of subplots and themes that aren't in the final film. The need to slim that down, a lesson taught to me by my editors, was an extremely important one to learn."

The final product could be called "a romantic comedy for the rest of us," in which realistic-looking people have realistically scaled problems. That is consistent with a guest post she wrote for Indiewire.com in which she decried the Hollywood body image.

In it, Manashil said of the then-ongoing casting process for "Bread and Butter," "I wrote a film about a girl like me. A girl who was a late bloomer, a girl who felt like the parade had passed her by."

Christine Weatherup, a fellow Trojan, came upon that post, emailed Manashil, and wound up booking the lead.

"I was very much the performer in the family. Maybe being the youngest had something to do with it," Weatherup said of her lifelong desire to act. Weatherup is not limiting her options, though: She has an impressive triple major in political science, cinema-television, and theater.

Manashil said, "Christine

hit on a wonderful vulnerability in her auditions for Amelia. She came across as slightly delicate and extremely likable. She showed me elements to the character I didn't even think about."

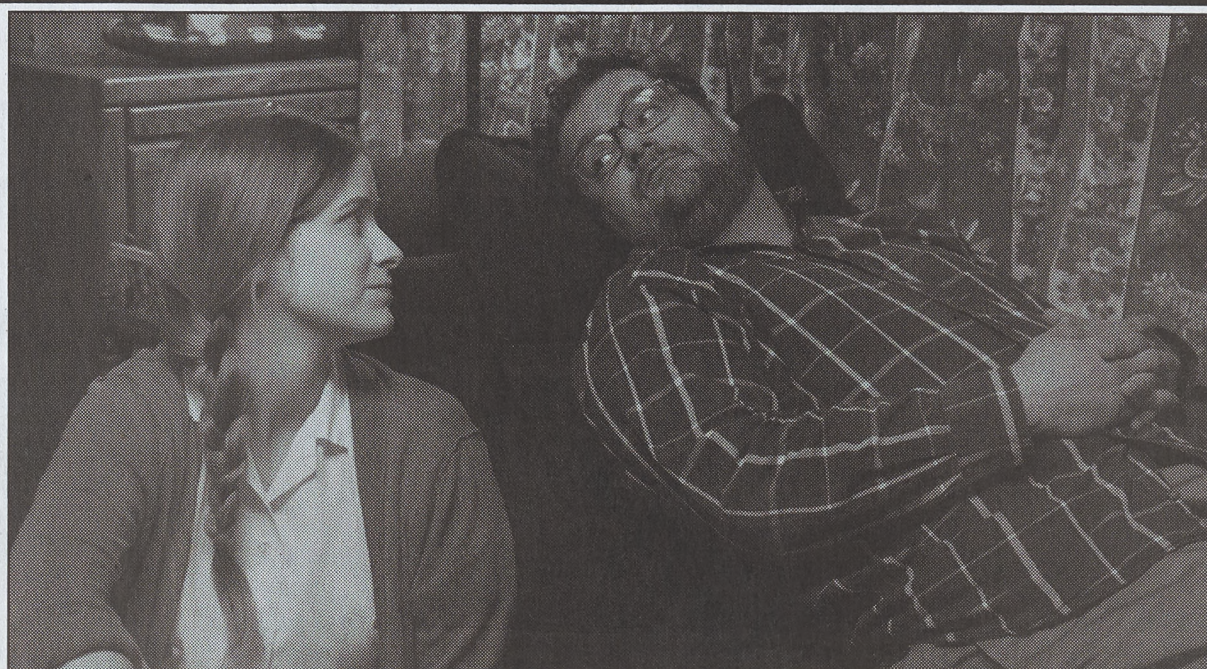
With her ideal, brainy lead and a cast including vets such as Bobby Moynihan of Saturday Night Live, and more or less fully funded, she had nothing to fear but fear itself. And exhaustion. And equipment failure. And sharknados.

"The toughest day was the last day, knowing that it would all be over soon," she says. "The greatest fear was something going wrong. I was terrified someone would get hurt on set or a natural disaster would happen or we would lose all the footage."

Somehow, the cast and crew survived. And the not-so-cookie-cutter movie sold out at the Woodstock Film Festival, where it was an official selection as well as a competition finalist, before winning at the Big Apple. Manashil and company are talking to distributors in the hopes of continuing the film's festival run.

"My number-one advice to an aspiring film director, or aspiring anything, is that you can get waylaid by the fear of that task at hand...being afraid of failing before you even start. A piece of advice is just to start," Manashil said.

For more information, visit breadandbuttermovie.com.



LIZ MANASHIL/THISISMYPROOF/PHD PRODUCTIONS

BREAD ALONE - Romantically challenged Amelia (Christine Weatherup) must choose between cuddly nice guy Daniel (Bobby Moynihan) and a jerk who fascinates her for some reason. It's a romantic comedy.

WHAT'S UP

Albums still relevant

■ Taylor Swift's "1989" becomes the first album of 2014 to go platinum.

BY MONESSA CHAHAYED
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Taylor Swift has come a long way since her 2006 self-titled debut.

Last month, the 24-year-old released her fourth album, "1989," selling 1.29 million copies in the first week making it the first album to go platinum this year. Swift proved that her decision to stray from her country sound was a step in the right direction.

However, Britney Spears still holds the spot of most-sold album in the first week for a female entertainer, with 1.3 million sales in 2000.

The singer-songwriter decided to keep her latest album from playing on streaming

devices such as Spotify and has focused on physical copies sold in stores such as Target, which she has an exclusive partnership. These decisions could not have helped album sales more.

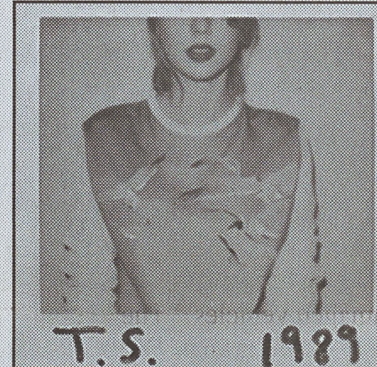
Swift wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed in July declaring the album was not dead.

"There are many people who predict the downfall of music sales and the irrelevancy of the album as an economic entity," Swift wrote. "I am not one of them."

After two years since her last album, "Red," fans have been anticipating "1989" more than any other album. A new sound and more mature lyrics have impressed skeptics and fans alike.

Tracks range from classic radio singles like "Shake It Off" and emotional ballads such as "This Love."

After the success of "1989," Swift is sure to continue shaking off any haters.



BIG MACHINE RECORDS
SWIFT JUSTICE - Star has 1.29 million reasons to believe albums still viable.

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WE LEARN BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

WE TRAIN IN OUR COMMUNITY

& THEN WE TAKE ON THE WORLD



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RESEARCH: An environmental studies class stops to discuss island environment as part of the California State University Channel Islands (CI) Santa Rosa Island Research Station (SRIRS).

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OPINION

3

Freedom of speech should not be contained

■ Limiting freedom of speech to a specific “zone” on campus is like being a little pregnant.

By JULIEN J. METZMEYER
STAFF WRITER

“Free Speech Zone” sounds nice, but do not be fooled - it is just another way to control our freedom of expression. It is like something out of Orwell, but students don’t seem to mind.

“A free speech zone guarantees [Administration] peace and quiet and control,” said Greg Lukianoff, president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). “Frankly, if you’re an administrator, your number-one concern is not academic freedom...it’s making sure that you don’t get complaints from parents, making sure that you maintain good PR.”

If one 41-foot-wide area on the Valley College campus between the bookstore and Monarch Hall is a “free speech

zone,” then everywhere else on the campus must be a restricted speech zone. This is an infringement of our First Amendment rights. The courts ruled in *Widmar v. Vincent* in 1981 that college campuses are considered a public forum for registered students. Therefore, we should exercise our First Amendment rights anywhere on campus.

“Public forums and public places are not the same,” said Florentino Manzano, Vice President of Student Services, playing zone defense. “The least disruption for the instructional program, that’s the idea.”

According to the Supreme Court, however, they are the same. The Supreme Court has defined public places where expressive activities may take place in three categories: the traditional public forum, such as



THE ZONE - Students only have a small space to express their views freely on Valley College.
AGUSTIN ANGEL FLORES/VALLEY STAR

college campuses, the designated public forum and the non-public forum.

The ACLU has been fighting against “free speech zones” on colleges and universities since the 1980s, when they sued New Mexico State University after establishing three “free speech zones.” The court ruled in favor of the ACLU.

“Colleges are the place where issues and ideas are to be debated,” said Allen Lichtenstein, general counsel for the ACLU of Nevada. “Universities need to be free. Faculty and students need to be free to make their

views known. I think in recent years, there has been a general trend towards trying to stifle free speech, trying to gain more control. I think the overall trend is that there is an attempt to close off more robust, open, free-wheeling debate.”

According to Manzano, the school simply follows California law, but California still has to comply with the United States Constitution. States may grant more rights than the Constitution grants, but they may not further restrict rights.

“The First Amendment is not optional at public colleges; it’s

the law,” said Lukianoff.

Monarchs also require a permit to use the zone.

“You need a permit to make sure you are not disrupting instruction. The permit is to secure a place where you are going to be,” said Manzano. “We want to know who’s here on campus and we have a designated place that that’s the idea.”

According to First Amendment Center, “The problem arises when these zones restrict too much speech. This can create what is known as a chilling effect, the inhibition or discouragement of the legiti-

mate exercise of a constitutional right.”

Valley officials want to confine ideas between those two red lines between the bookstore and Monarch Hall. Step outside the box, the campus police will remind you to get back inside or possibly get arrested.

It is more than likely that school officials do not want students’ ideas spreading because it could insight change in our societies as students did in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1964, pressured by the civil rights movement and under the leadership of President Lyndon Johnson, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

This never would have happened without the student movement whose belief was a democratic participation, or the idea that all Americans should decide our economic, political, and social future. College students were key engines in movements that changed America.

Bob Dylan sang “The times they are a-changin’” as students exercised their free speech rights in the ‘60s. Today, as Monarchs stroll blithely by the red-bordered “Free Speech Zone,” the lyric that comes to mind is Omarion’s “There’s an ice box where my heart used to be.”

‘Parking’

continued from page 1

installation.” Some closed off sections were also due to repairs being made on the concrete slab due to a height clearance issue which, according to King has been resolved. There were no reports of damaged vehicles. “The Program Management Office

is not aware of any complaints from students or others about car damage due to any work at the parking garage.”

“The repairs to the slab are planned to be completed in the next few weeks,” said King. “Speed bumps are not related to the repairs on the slab.”



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www.thevalleystar.com

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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Five million per year is really not enough?

■ NBPA executive director fighting for more.

By KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
SPORTS EDITOR

Three years ago, NBA fans endured a 161-day lockout, robbing the season of 16 games. Unfortunately, thanks to the lofty demands and aspirations of newly-hired National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) Executive Director Michele Roberts, fans will have no choice but to sit behind the bars of another lockout in 2017, when the NBPA will inevitably opt out of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Since her election in July, Roberts, a prominent attorney, has rebelled against nearly everything agreed upon the 2011 CBA. Roberts stirred the labor pot with a hand grenade in an interview with ESPN The Magazine on Nov. 13 — beginning with player contracts.

“I don’t know of any space other than the world of sports where there’s this notion that we will artificially deflate what someone’s able to make, just because,” said Roberts to ESPN The Magazine. “It’s incredibly un-American. My DNA is offended by it.”

The NBA does not have maximum individual contracts “just because.” Since the NBA operates under a salary cap, specifically to ensure competitive balance and equal opportunity league-wide — the complete opposite of being “un-American” — a maximum contract aids NBA teams from having to potentially spend all their avail-

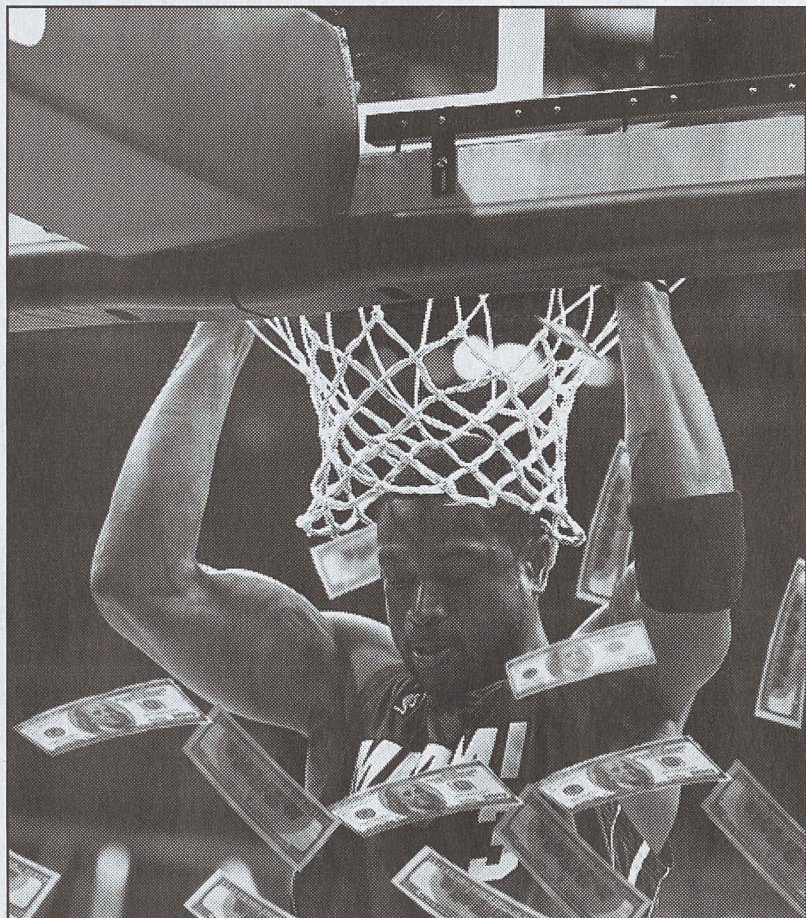
able money on, perhaps, one superstar player. It also gives a team first priority to re-sign one of their players, along with the ability to offer an extra year of financial security to the contract that another team cannot.

This is all ingrained in the current CBA to assist teams of smaller markets such as New Orleans, Memphis, Oklahoma City, and Milwaukee in retaining their star players from bolting and teaming up with other stars in colossal NBA cities with huge markets like Los Angeles and New York, which is becoming increasingly popular.

There is also no set amount that a player worthy of a max contract can receive either, as it is percentage based. Meaning, if the league’s salary cap increases (as it is in 2016 when the NBA’s new \$24 billion TV deals kick in), the percentage of how much money those players earn will skyrocket.

So it is not as if these poor players are being cheated out of money. According to Sports Interaction, as recent as 2013, NBA average player salaries are at \$5.15 million, and their average career earnings at \$24.7 million, both the highest in American professional sports.

The average NBA career earnings is more than what the average National Football League (NFL) player and National Hockey League (NHL) player make in their careers combined (\$19.9 million), and every single penny of the money



MAKE IT RAIN - The NBPA executive director is campaigning for NBA players to receive more financial security with bigger contracts.
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR

being awarded to them via contract is guaranteed.

The 49-51.2 percent revenue split between NBA players and the owners is also the second-most between players and owners in professional sports (second to the NHL players who agreed to a 50-50 split with their owners), further displaying how the players are not being ‘cheap-skated,’ as Roberts implies.

First-year NBA Commissioner Adam Silver contested with Roberts in a statement shortly after her Nov. 13 comments.

“We couldn’t disagree more with those statements,” said Silver. “The NBA’s success is based on the collective efforts

and investments of all team owners, the thousands of employees at our teams and arenas, and our extraordinary talented players. No single group could accomplish this on its own. Nor is there anything unusual or “un-American” in a unionized industry to have a collective system for paying employees — in fact, that’s the norm.”

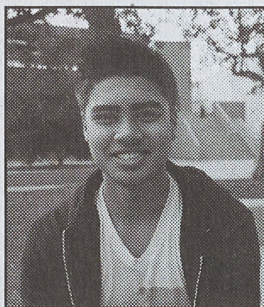
Four-time Most Valuable Player LeBron James shares the sentiments of all NBA fans.

“Our game is too good, it’s too popular,” James told ESPN. “Everyone loves our game all across the world and we don’t want to get to the point where we have to have another lockout.”

Campus View

PHOTOS BY ZAIDA DIAZ, VALLEY STAR

Has Valley College improved the parking dilemma this semester, with the new parking structure?



“I believe that the parking situation has improved because there really isn’t a problem, people are just over exaggerating.”

SAKIB SALEHADDIN, UNDECIDED



“The new parking structure has created more available parking on Oxnard. However on Fulton it has not improved.”

CAZANDRA DONAN,
PSYCHOLOGY



“While the current problems with the tree lot and the parking structure are annoying, they are temporary setbacks.”

MICHELE MULIDOR,
BUSINESS/ ECON



“Absolutely it has, last semester I would be stuck in the back of Lot B, now I always get prime parking, front row.”

AVA CORRADO,
PSYCHOLOGY

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

The Monarchs' erratic season comes to a close, finally

■ The season that began with promise, but instead led to an up and down roller coaster campaign is over for Valley College, and now it is time to review.



MAKING THE HIT- Valley College linebacker D'Quan Bates attempting to take down Pierce College runningback Deshaun Jones in the Bell rivalry game, which the Monarchs lost 48-55 on the road.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Monarchs' Jekyll and Hyde season ended at home on Saturday, Nov. 15, losing to West LA 38-28 and finishing the year with a 3-7 record. Valley finished with one less point in the "win" column than last year, along with a 1-6 conference record in this whirlwind of a season.

The team's strange case began this year with a promising start. Valley's first two games

were impressive wins, including a 57-10 victory against El Camino-Compton Center that pushed their record to 2-0 for the second consecutive season.

Despite losing two of their next three games, the Monarchs remained very competitive, as the losses came by a combined four points against the Mt. San Jacinto Eagles and conference foe LA Southwest College Cougars.

At 3-2 (1-1) heading into their bye week, Valley looked poised to make a solid run at

finishing in the top tier of their conference, and to surely finish above a .500 record for the first time since 2010 when they finished 6-4.

The Monarchs' offense was just starting to hit their stride while the mean, green, Mr. Hyde defensive unit was outstanding in punishing offenses during the first five games. They ranked No. 1 in the state in total defense, and were only allowing 13.2 points per game—a gigantic improvement from 2013 when the defense

allowed 29 points per game.

Somewhere during the bye week however, Valley seemed as if they drank the potion of complacency, turning into nice-guy Dr. Jekyll. The team broke down in all facets, and failed to regain the competitive edge that they displayed early in the season, and as a result, ended with a five-game losing streak.

The dominant defense that once ranked No. 1 went from allowing an average of 13.2 points per game to a whopping 37 points per game in the final stretch, while the offense struggled with inconsistency and turnovers—all recipes for losing.

First-year Head Coach Juan Navarro knew he was in for a challenging season after officially being hired less than 60 days before Valley's first game. However, despite the disappointment of their season, Navarro remains confident in what he and his staff instilled into the players and the program going forward.

"We do have the foundation here," said Navarro. "But I think we need to continue to develop our football IQ as well as having the expectation of commitment, accountability, execution, and preparation continuing to happen. That's what I hope the guys that are coming back [next season] can help implement."

According to the newly-appointed coach, 85 percent of this season's team were freshmen, and he expects between 50 and 60 percent of those players to remain at Valley for the 2015 season. He cautioned, however, that the constant revolving

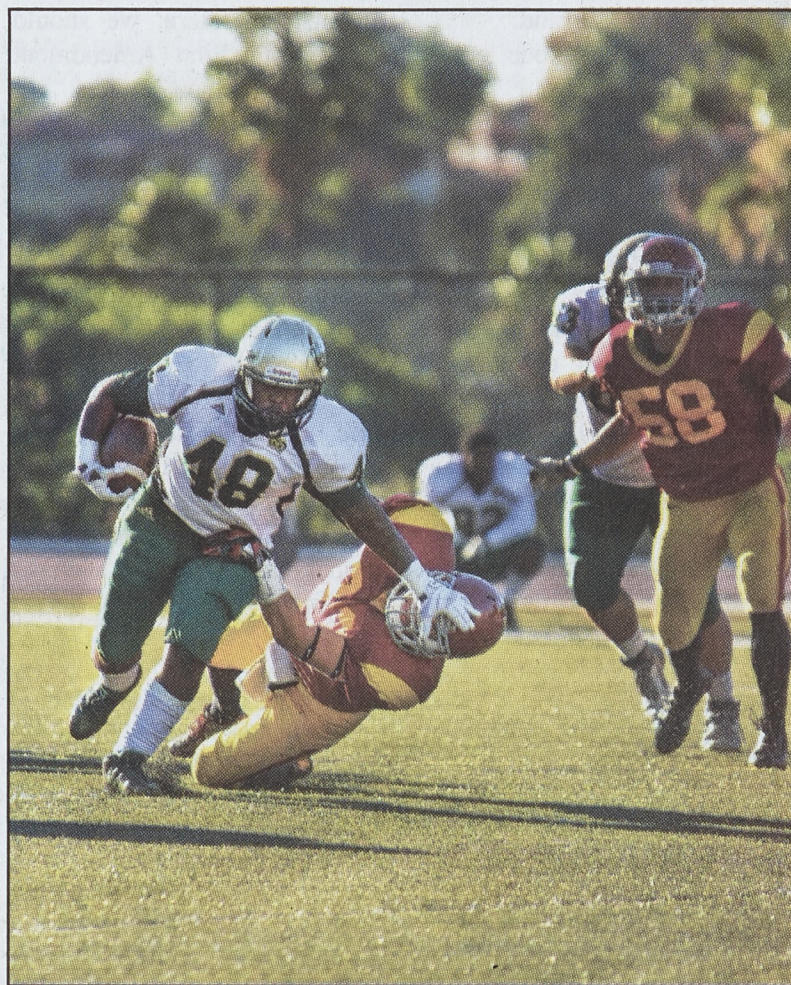
door surrounding junior college football with players potentially leaving at any time makes that estimate indefinite.

Navarro mentioned that the program will aim to heavily recruit for the offensive and defensive line in the offseason to help provide depth to a corps that severely lacked it this year.

Raveon Hoston, a freshman defensive lineman, who will be called upon to step up in the 2015 season, cites the experi-

ence and continuity of enduring this topsy-turvy year as to why the Monarchs' future is still bright going forward into next fall.

"Experience will play a big part in [the team's] success next season," said Hoston. "Even though our record doesn't indicate it, I still feel like we had a good season and really came together as a group, and that will only make next season much better."



STIFF ARM- Monarchs runningback Terrance Jones breaks through by using his strength to shrug off a tackle from a Glendale Community College defensive player, though Valley's would end up losing 17-26 on the road.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The rise of Miriam Ramirez

■ Valley College freshman forward/midfielder heading towards the next level.



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR
STAR IN THE MAKING - Freshman Miriam Ramirez scores 11 goals.

BY JORGE BELON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

At the age of 10, Miriam Ramirez was introduced to the game of soccer, since then her life has only been about one thing: to play the game as a professional one day.

"I was 10-years-old when I started to play soccer," said the Lady Monarch forward/midfielder. "I didn't even know what soccer was before my uncle introduced it to me. I was the only girl in a boys baseball team and I was catcher. Until my uncle just brought me

one day to practice soccer, I remember I showed up with my brothers jeans and my baseball cleats and a t-shirt...and since that very first practice, I do not want to do anything else with my life."

The 17-year-old was born in North Hollywood, California on Dec. 2, but immediately after her birth her family moved south of the border. For Ramirez, the first five years of her life Arandas, Jalisco, Mexico was her home.

Despite the popularity of soccer (or fútbol) in Mexico, she didn't get into soccer until she returned to the states.

"I originally played baseball," she said. "My uncle and my cousins threw me into soccer pickup games at the age of 10. My uncle placed me as a defender because of my speed. I had no skill what so ever, I was just fast, I was also not afraid to go for a ball."

Even with little skill to start her career, the young Ramirez was placed in a higher level of competition. Her family skipped the America Youth Soccer Organization, instead she would play against boys through out the week, and on the weekend she played for her club, with girls.

A few years after barely starting to play soccer, she became a solid starter for Bishop Alemany High School. It was there when she was not only noticed by her high school coach but by universities as well.

"In high school I was looked at by the University of San Francisco and by the BIG 10 Minnesota University," she said. "But I did not have the

grades and I thought my skills would take me where I would need to be, but I was wrong. Though they are still in contact with me today."

A big reason for two powerful soccer programs in the nation to keep tabs on the 17-year-old, is her diversity as a player.

She began her career as a defender because of playing with no fear and little skill. But in high school she developed her game into a defensive midfielder, showing a more technical and creative side.

Now, at Valley as a freshman, she has flourished and learned to become a predator in the penalty box, scoring 11 goals and notching four assists as well. Not to mention she has also become clutch, by scoring five game winning goals in her first season as a forward.

Though the talented Ramirez had no plans to attend Valley originally, no one had contacted her and she did not know about the program. She was about to sign with College of the Canyons (COC), but in the last second her best friend and Lady Monarch freshman defender Jasmine Schevitt changed her mind.

One can see that the NoHo native will not be staying at Valley for long, nor does she plan to. Ramirez has big dreams to transfer out and then going pro, but before she leaves Monarch Stadium she has one goal she wants to accomplish.

"I started to think, why go to COC when they are already going to win championships," she said. "Instead I should go to school that was not, so I can help bring them up."

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